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April 2014

The Essential Gospel Music Listening Library

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Recommended Citation

Barbee, Stephanie L. (2014) "The Essential Gospel Music Listening Library," *The Journal of Traditions & Beliefs*: Vol. 1 , Article 10.
Available at: <https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/jtb/vol1/iss1/10>

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Discography

The Essential Gospel Music Listening Library Edited and with an Introduction by Stephanie L. Barbee

Compiled by the Members of Spiritual Gifts,
A Professional Black Sacred Music Repertory Ensemble (2009)

Both students and scholars at the university level can benefit from using a catalog of African American sacred music, because, in African American communities, music often serves as a diagram, tracing the growth and stagnations of African Americans throughout their history in the United States. Gospel music, for example, developed through racism, segregation, and other forms of humiliation. In 2005, author Bill Carpenter said Gospel music has served as an outlet for frustration and brought peace to believers in Gospel music. Gospel music also provided an avenue to business ownership, as many Black-owned record labels started as Gospel record labels. This is a significant point, since many record labels that held copyrights to Gospel music were owned by non-blacks, who, while they did not necessarily understand Gospel music, recognized its importance in the African American community.

In completing this particular collection, identifying the release date and respective record label was very time consuming, especially for songs released in the early twentieth century, the era of traditional Gospel music. Recordings of Mahalia Jackson's music, for example, are often re-mastered to provide better sound quality, and the release date for the re-mastered work is more readily available than the date for the original recording. The Grace Note Music Database proved to be an excellent source of information, yielding more data than many music retailer websites.

Each catalog entry provides information on the evolving business of Gospel music, and the recordings themselves serve as exemplary teaching tools at the post-secondary level. Gospel music has endured the test of time, it is vital to the lives and cultures of African Americans, and the music's influence will continue for years to come.

Yolanda Adams

“Save the World”-1993-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

“The Best of Yolanda Adams”-1999-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

African American Heritage Series, GIA Music

“42 Treasured Favorites from the African American Heritage Hymnal”-2008-GIA Music (giamusic.com)

Rance Allen

“The Best of the Rance Allen Group”-2006-UMG (Amazon.com)

The Barrett Sisters

“What Shall I Render?”-2005-Sony Music Special Products (Oldies.com)

Byron Cage

“Byron Cage, Live at the Apollo: The Proclamation”-2007-Gospocentric (Amazon.com)

“An Invitation to Worship”-2005-Gospocentric (Amazon.com)

The Canton Spirituals

“Nothing but the Hits: The Canton Spirituals”-2004-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

The Caravans

“Best of the Caravans”-1977 (re-released 1990)-Savoy Records (Oldies.com)

Kurt Carr

“Just the Beginning”-2008-Gospocentric (Amazon.com)

“Awesome Wonder”-2000-BMG-Gospocentric (Gracenote.com)

“One Church”-2005-Gospocentric (Gracenote.com)

“Come Let Us Worship”-2005-Artemis Strategic (Amazon.com)

Shirley Caesar

“After 40 Years, Still Sweeping Through the City”-2007-Live Records (Amazon.com)

Mattie Moss Clark

“I’m Not Alone / The Hand of God Reached Out and Touched Me” -2006-Sounds of Gospel (Amazon.com)

Clark Sisters

“Live: One Last Time”-2007-EMI Gospel (Amazon.com)

Otis Clay

“Walk a Mile in My Shoes”-2007-Echo Records (Gracenote.com)

James Cleveland

“Rev. James Cleveland: This Is Gospel,” Parts I & II, Calvin Spain (Amazon.com)

Dorothy Love Coates

“The Best of Dorothy Love Coates & the Original Gospel Harmonettes, Vols. 1-2-1990-Specialty Records (Amazon.com)

Commissioned

“Time and Seasons”-1999 (Amazon.com)

“Verity Records Presents the New Gospel Legends: The Best of Commissioned-1999 (Amazon.com)

“Commissioned Reunion: Live”-2002-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

Beverly Crawford

“Live from Los Angeles”-2007-Jdi Records (Amazon.com)

Andrae Crouch

“Definitive Greatest Hits”-2005-Sheridan Square Records (Amazon.com)

Saundra Crouch

“Gospel Legacy”-2008-Light Records (Amazon.com)

Margaret Douroux

On “Gospel Music Workshop of America: National Mass Choir 25th Anniversary”-1993-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

Danniebelle Hall

“Legends of Gospel: Danniebelle Hall”-2004-Compendia (Amazon.com)

Thomas A. Dorsey

“Precious Lord: The Great Gospel Songs of Thomas A. Dorsey”-1973-Special Mkts.- (Amazon.com)

Dynamic Praise

“Testify”-2007-Madison Avenue (Amazon.com)

Kirk Franklin

“Hero”-2005-Afrocentric (Gracenote.com)

“Fight of My Life”-2007-Zomba Gospel (Gracenote.com)

“Kirk Franklin and the Family, Live”-1993-Gospocentric Records (Oldies.com)

“Rebirth of Kirk Franklin”-2002-Gospocentric (Gracenote.com)

Fred Hammond

“Pages of Life: Chapter I & II”-1998-Verity Records (Gracenote.com)

“Nothing but the Hits”-2007-Verity Records (Gracenote.com)

Dettrick Haddon

“Revealed”-2008-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

Edwin Hawkins

“The Very Best of the Edwin Hawkins Singers”-1998-RCA Victor Europe (Amazon.com)

Walter Hawkins

“The Very Best of Walter Hawkins and the Hawkins Family”-2005-Artemis Strategic (Amazon.com)

“Love Alive V – 25th Anniversary”-1998-Gospocentric (Amazon.com)

Darwin Hobbs

“Free”-2008-Tyscot Records (Amazon.com)

“The Best of Darwin Hobbs”-2007-EMI Gospel (Amazon.com)

Israel Houghton

“Israel and New Breed—New Season”-2001-Sony Records (Amazon.com)

Mahalia Jackson

“The Best of Mahalia Jackson”-1995-Sony Records (Amazon.com)

Bobby Jones

“The Ambassador”-2007-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

Donald Lawrence

“Donald Lawrence Presents the Tri-City Singers Grand Finale: Encourage Yourself”
-2007-EMI Gospel (Amazon.com)

“I Speak Life”-2004-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

Tamela Mann

“The Live Experience”-2007-Tilly Mann Records (Amazon.com)

Roberta Martin

“The Best of the Roberta Martin Singers”-1979-Audio CD reissued 2001-Savoy Records (Amazon.com)

Mary, Mary

“The Sound”-2008-Sony Records (Amazon.com)

Donnie McClurkin

“We Are All One (Live in Detroit)”-2009-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

“Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs”-2004-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

“The Essential Donnie McClurkin”-2007-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

The Mighty Clouds of Joy

“The Best of the Mighty Clouds of Joy”-originally released 1973/ re-released 1995-MCA Special Products (Amazon.com)

“In the House of the Lord: Live in Houston ”-2005-EMI Gospel (Amazon.com)

“Live in Charleston”-1996-Intersound Records (Amazon.com)

Smokie Norful

“Nothing Without You”-2004-EMI Gospel (Amazon.com)

“I Need You Now”-2002-EMI Gospel (Amazon.com)

“Live”-2009-EMI Gospel (Amazon.com)

“Life Changing”-2006-EMI Gospel (Amazon.com)

LaShun Pace

“Shekinah Glory”-1993-Savoy Records (Amazon.com)

“Just Because God Said It”-1998-Savoy Records (Amazon.com)

The Anointed Pace Sisters

“The Return”-2006-Tyscot Records (Amazon.com)

Bishop T.D. Jakes and The Potter’s House Choir

“The Storm Is Over”-2001-Chordant Records (Amazon.com)

“Grace: Live in Kenya”-2007-Rhino/Wea (Amazon.com)

“Live from the Potter’s House”-1998-Integrity Music (Gracenote.com)

JoAnn Rosario

“More, More, More”-2002-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

“Joyous Salvation”-2007-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

Marvin Sapp

“Thirsty”-2007-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

KiKi Sheard

“This Is Me”-2006-EMI Gospel (Amazon.com)

Soul Stirrers (with Sam Cooke)

“Jesus Gave Me Water”-1992-Specialty Records (Amazon.com)

Sweet Honey in the Rock

“Sacred Ground”-1995-Earthbeat Records (Amazon.com)

“I Got Shoes”-1994-Music Little People Records (Amazon.com)

“Selections, 1976-1988”-1997-Flying Fish Records (Amazon.com)

“Singing for Freedom”-2005-Rhino Records (Yahoo! Music.com)

Take Six

“The Standard”-2008-Heads Up Records (Amazon.com)

“Greatest Hits”-1999-Warner Bros/Wea Records (Amazon.com)

“Take Six”-1988, Audio CD released 1990-World Entertainment (Amazon.com)

Tye Tribbett

“Victory”-2006-Integrity Music/Gospel (Amazon.com)

“Stand Out”-2008-Sony Records (Amazon.com)

Albertina Walker

“Best of Albertina Walker”-2001-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

“Please Be Patient with Me”-1990-Savoy Gospel (cduniverse.com)

“Original Gospel Classics”-2006-Original Gospel Records (Amazon.com)

Hezekiah Walker

“Souled Out”-2008-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

“The Essential Hezekiah Walker”-2007-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

Clara Ward & the Ward Singers

“I Feel the Holy Spirit”-Audio CD released 2005-Gospel Friend Records (Amazon.com)

Benita Washington

“Renaissance”-2007-Reddapple Seed Entertainment (Amazon.com)

“Hold On”-2004-Compendia Records (Amazon.com)

Kirk Whalum

“Hymns in the Garden”-2001-Warner Brothers Records (Amazon.com)

Thomas Whitfield

“I’m Encouraged”-1986- Sound of Gospel Records (prayzehymnonline.com & Amazon.com)

Marion Williams

“My Soul Looks Back: The Genius of Marion Williams”-1994-Shanachie Records (Amazon.com)

“Gospel Soul of Marion Williams”-1999-Shanachie Records (Amazon.com)

“Remember Me”-2005-Shanachie Records (Amazon.com)

The Williams Brothers

“Still Here”-2003-Blackberry Records (Amazon.com)

“Greatest Hits Plus”-2005-Blackberry Records (Amazon.com)

CeCe Winans

“Thy Kingdom Come”-2008-EMI Gospel (Amazon.com)

“Throne Room”-2003-Sony Records (Amazon.com)

The Winans

“Heart and Soul”-1995-World Entertainment Records (Amazon.com)

The Wings Over Jordan

“Amen”-2008-King/Select-O Records (Amazon.com)

“Traditional Spirituals”-2008-King/Select-O Records (Amazon.com)

“Trying to Get Ready”-2008-Gospelfriend Records (Amazon.com)

Dwayne Woods

“Introducing Dwayne Woods”-2006-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

WOW Gospel 2005-Various Artists-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

WOW Gospel 2006-Various Artists-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

WOW Gospel 2007-Various Artists-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

WOW Gospel 2008-Various Artists-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

WOW Gospel 2009-Various Artists-Verity Records (Amazon.com)

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